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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

SENSITIVE #

CIA/DCI/WHIZWH 741108

267
Date: November 8, 1974

Item No.: WH #1

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

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REF:

Fighting in Cambodia remains focused in the upper Bassac River corridor southeast of Phnom Penh and along principal land lines of communication.

The government's three-month-old operation to extend its defensive perimeter in the Bassac River corridor has all but ground to a halt. Strong Communist attacks this week forced three government battalions to withdraw from defensive positions nine miles southeast of the capital. These government units have regrouped, but it now seems unlikely that Phnom Penh can firm up a new defense line before the beginning of the dry season.

Government troops have cleared Route 5 northwest of

Distribution:

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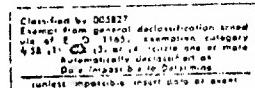
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Li. Gen. Walters

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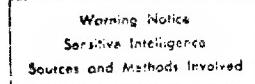
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Mr. Proctor
Mr. Lehman

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Kompong Chhnang and damage to this stretch of highway has been repaired. Although Route 5 is now open to traffic between Kompong Chhnang and Battambang, the Communists remain in position to interdict this key route.

Meanwhile, government forces along Route 4 have fallen back to consolidate defenses on more favorable terrain seven miles southwest of Kompong speu. The Communists in this area are maintaining their pressure. Elsewhere, garrison troops at Svay Rieng repulsed strong attacks early in the week without losing any ground and have inflicted heavy casualties on Communist attackers.